

IN THE CLAIMS

1. [Currently amended] A fuse holder comprising:

a housing defining an enclosed region, said housing comprises a base and a cover, said base and said cover adapted to accept differently configured cage holders within said enclosed region;

a pair of contacts within said housing at opposite ends of said enclosed region and spaced to engage terminals on ends of a fuse; and

~~a first cage holder and a second cage holder configured to fit within in said housing, saideach cage holder of said first and said second cage holders configured to include one of includes either a single pole cage and/or a plurality of pole cages of different poles.~~

2. [Original] The fuse holder of claim 1 wherein said housing comprises a fuse carrier pivotally mounted on said housing, said fuse carrier is movable between a closed position, in which said pair of contacts electrically engage said terminals, and an open position, in which said fuse can be inserted into said fuse carrier.

3. [Original] The fuse holder of claim 1 wherein one pole cage of said plurality of pole cages is a neutral connection terminal and another pole cage of said plurality of pole cages is electrically connected to said pair of contacts.

4. [Original] The fuse holder of claim 1 wherein said single pole cage is electrically connected to said contacts.

5. [Currently amended] The fuse holder of claim 1 wherein said single pole cage and at least one pole cage in said plurality of poles cages comprises: four generally planer sides with a flange extending depending generally perpendicularly from an edge forming one of said planar sides, and a screw threadably engaged with a side opposite said one of said planar sides for retaining an electrical wire entering an interior portion formed by said planar sides.

6. [Currently amended] The fuse holder of claim 1 wherein said housing includes:

a pair of cavities disposed at opposing ends of said enclosed region, each cavity configured to receive said ~~each~~-cage holder ;

a pair of apertures, each aperture of said pair of apertures is disposed above said each cavity and configured to receive a top surface edge of said ~~each~~-cage holder; and

a pair of openings, each opening of said pair of openings is disposed at said opposing ends and configured to receive a front face edge of said ~~each~~-cage holder.

7. [Currently amended] The fuse holder of claim 1 wherein said ~~each~~-cage holder comprises a first half section and a complementary second half section, said first half section and said complementary second half section configured to retain said single pole cage therebetween.

8. [Currently amended] The fuse holder of claim 1 wherein said each cage holder comprises:

a front face having a plurality of cutouts;

a rear face generally parallel to said front face having a slot generally aligned with each cutout of said plurality of cutouts; and

a dividing face disposed intermediate said front face and said rear face generally extending perpendicular therebetween, said dividing face providing a cavity having said one cutout of said plurality of cutouts on each side of said dividing face, said cavity retaining a pole cage of said plurality of pole cages aligned with said each cutout.

9. [Original] The fuse holder of claim 1 wherein said base and said cover are configured with a defined channel to retain a neutral strap in said enclosed region.

10. [Currently amended] The fuse holder of claim 9 wherein said defined channel includes a first and a second neutral strap disposed therein having a biased contact conducting plate intermediate said first neutral strap and said second neutral strap, said conducting plate biased to provide an electrical connection between said first neutral strap and said second neutral strap.

11. [Withdrawn] A fuse system for fuse protection to a distribution circuit including a first phase, a second phase, and a neutral, said fuse system including;

a first fuse holder including:

a first housing,

a single pole cage holder within said first housing, said single pole cage holder including a single pole cage for electrical connection to the first phase, and

a second fuse holder including:

a second housing identical to said first housing,

a two-pole cage holder within said second housing, said two-pole cage holder including a first pole cage for electrical connection to the second phase and a second pole cage for electrical connection to the neutral.

12. [Withdrawn] The fuse system of claim 11 wherein each housing of said first housing and said second housing define an enclosed region, said each housing comprises a base and a cover, said base and said cover adapted to accept differently configured cage holders within said enclosed region, each fuse holder of said first fuse holder and said second fuse holder including:

a pair of contacts within said each housing at opposite ends of said enclosed region and spaced to engage terminals on ends of a fuse; and

a first cage holder and a second cage holder configured to fit within said each housing, each cage holder of said first cage holder and said second cage holder includes either said single pole cage or said a plurality of poles cages.

13. [Withdrawn] The fuse system of claim 12 wherein said each housing comprises a fuse carrier pivotally mounted on said each housing, said fuse carrier is movable between a closed position, in which said pair of contacts electrically engage said terminals, and an open position, in which said fuse can be inserted into said fuse carrier.

14. [Withdrawn] The fuse system of claim 11 wherein each pole cage of said single pole cage and said first and second pole cages comprises: four generally planer sides with a flange depending generally perpendicularly from an edge forming one of said planar sides, and a screw threadably engaged with a side opposite said one of said planar sides for retaining an electrical wire entering an interior portion formed by said planar sides.

15. [Withdrawn] The fuse system of claim 12 wherein said each housing includes:

a pair of cavities disposed at opposing ends of said enclosed region, each cavity configured to receive a cage holder selected from said single pole cage holder and said two-pole cage holder;

a pair of apertures, each aperture of said pair of apertures is disposed above said each cavity and configured to receive a top surface edge of said cage holder; and

a pair of openings, each opening of said pair of openings is disposed at said opposing ends and configured to receive a front face edge of said cage holder.

16. [Withdrawn] The fuse system of claim 11 wherein said single pole cage holder comprises a first half section and a complementary second half section, said first half section and said complementary second half section configured to retain said single pole cage therebetween.

17. [Withdrawn] The fuse system of claim 11 wherein said two-pole cage holder comprises:

a front face having a plurality of cutouts;

a rear face generally parallel to said front face having a slot generally aligned with each cutout of said plurality of cutouts; and

a dividing face disposed intermediate said front face and said rear face generally extending perpendicular therebetween, said dividing face providing a cavity having said

each cutout of said plurality of cutouts on each side of a plane defined by said dividing face, said cavity retaining a pole cage selected from said first and said second pole cages aligned with said each cutout.

18. [Withdrawn] The fuse system of claim 12 wherein said base and said cover are configured with a defined channel to retain a neutral strap in said enclosed region.

19. [Withdrawn] The fuse system of claim 18 wherein said defined channel includes a first and a second neutral strap disposed therein having a biased contact conducting plate intermediate said first and said second neutral straps, said conduct plate biased to provide an electrical connection between said first and said second neutral strap.

Election/Restrictions

Claims 11- 19 stand withdrawn from consideration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.142(b), as being withdrawn to a nonelected invention, as the Examiner claims there is no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner claims that the limitations of claim 11 are not analogous to the features recited in claim 1, “since claim recites one fuse holder housing two cage holders, wherein claim 11 recites two fuse holder housings, each having one cage holder.” See page 2 of the Detailed Action.

It is respectfully submitted that claim 1 has been amended to recite one fuse holder housing a cage holder in line with the Examiner’s assertion that the combination as recited in claim 11 requires only one cage per fuse holder housing. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the restriction with respect to claims 11-19 be withdrawn.

Drawing Objections

The drawings stand objected to because according to the “Brief Description of Drawings” there should be Figures 1-8 in the drawings. However, the Examiner states that only Figures 1-7 are present in the drawings filed on August 5, 2002. The Examiner requires a proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application.

A proposed drawing for Figure 8 as described in the specification accompanies this response to the Office action. No new matter has been added. The subject matter identified in Figure 8 is also illustrated with respect to Figures 3 and 5 as originally filed. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 5 and 10 stand objected to because of the following informalities: in claim 5, line 3 of the claim, following “a flange” it is believed that the limitation “depending” should be replaced with “extending” or “descending”, and in claim 10, line 4 of the claim, it is believed that the limitation “conduct” should be replaced with “conducting”. Appropriate correction as suggested by the Examiner is reflected with respect to amended claims 5 and 10.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objections to claims 5 and 10 be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections -35 USC §112

Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected to under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse.

The Examiner states that the claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Claim 9 from which claim 10 depends recites the limitation “a defined channel”. The Examiner alleges that the Specification does not provide support for said limitation, since no such “channel” has been disclosed.

Paragraph [0025] referring to Figs. 5 and 8 has been amended to make explicit what was before at least implicit with respect to the description regarding Figs. 5 and 8 in combination with Fig. 3. More specifically, paragraph [0025] on page 7 of the specification as originally filed identified that “neutral connection terminal 27 includes a pair of neutral straps 150 disposed between two pairs of raised ribs 152 configured in base 54.” (Emphasis added.) Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one skilled in the pertinent art would readily recognize “a defined channel” is defined between two pairs of raised ribs 152 configured in the base and cover to retain a neutral strap in said enclosed region, as in claim 9, and wherein said defined channel includes a first and a second neutral strap disposed therein having a biased contact conducting plate intermediate said first neutral strap and said second neutral strap, said conducting plate biased to provide an electrical connection between said first neutral strap and said second neutral strap, as in claim 10 and described with reference to Figs. 5 and 8, and as also seen in Fig. 3.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections -35 USC §102

Claims 1, 2, and 4, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,938,093 to McCloud. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Regarding claim 1, the Examiner alleges that McCloud discloses (Fig. 1-4) a fuse holder comprising: a housing (1) defining an enclosed region, said housing (1) comprising a base and a cover (5), said base and said cover (5) adapted to accept differently configured cage holders (2, 3) within said enclosed region; a pair of contacts (35) within said housing (1) at opposite ends of said enclosed region and spaced to engage terminals on ends of a fuse (4); and a first cage holder (2) and a second cage holder (3) configured to fit within in said housing (1), each cage holder of said first (2) and second (3) cage holders includes either a single pole cage (39) or a plurality of pole cages (39) (Fig. 3).

More specifically, it is respectfully submitted that McCloud discloses an electrical contact for a fuse cutout and particularly to a generally U-shaped metal clip adapted to resiliently grasp the contact of a fuse tube. Col. 1, lines 15-18. More particularly, McCloud discloses a long-life contact clip adapted to resiliently grip a contact and to maintain such grip without loss of resiliency caused by overheating due to carrying current. Col. 1, lines 47-50.

McCloud teaches upper and lower contact assemblies 2 and 3 that are similar in construction with the exception that the upper contact assembly 2 includes the hairpin spring secured thereto by depending portion 25 and that similar elements in the two contact assemblies are given the same number. Col. 3, lines 1-5. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that assemblies 2 and 3 teach away from “differently configured cage holders (2, 3) within said enclosed region,” as alleged by the Examiner on page 4 of the Detailed Action and as claimed in claim 1. Furthermore, McCloud discloses that to directly connect each contact member 35 to a line conductor 12, a movable collar 39 is disposed on each projection 36 of the contact member 35 and the line conductor 12 is clamped between the collar 39 and the projection 36 by a small bolt 40 which threads through a tapped opening in the collar and bears on the respective projection 36. Col. 3, lines 36-41. Thus, McCloud only teaches two poles cages electrically coupled to the same single pole contact cap 14 or sleeve 15 of fuse 4. See Col. 54-57, and Figs.1 and 3.

McCloud does not teach or suggest, an in fact teaches away from, said base and said cover adapted to accept differently configured cage holders within said enclosed region; . . . and a cage holder configured to fit within in said housing, said cage holder

configured to include one of a single pole cage and a plurality of pole cages of different poles, as in amended claim 1. Furthermore, McCloud does not teach or suggest, a first fuse holder including: a first housing, a single pole cage holder within said first housing, said single pole cage holder including a single pole cage for electrical connection to the first phase, and a second fuse holder including: a second housing identical to said first housing, a two-pole cage holder within said second housing, said two-pole cage holder including a first pole cage for electrical connection to the second phase and a second pole cage for electrical connection to the neutral, as in claim 11.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 11, including claims depending therefrom, i.e., claims 2-10, and 12-19, define over McCloud.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments and remarks fully comply with the Office Action and that the claims herein are allowable to Applicants. In view of the foregoing points that distinguish Applicants' invention from those of the prior art and render Applicants' invention not obvious, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the present application, remove the rejections, and allow the application to issue.

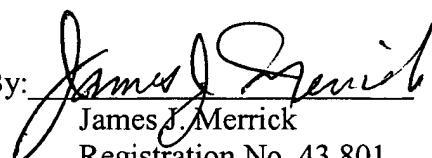
If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

If any fees are due in connection with this Amendment, or otherwise, Applicants' attorneys authorize that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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